26: Honda--469 N-3 (1896) 1897 Formosans
116, 133

Mt. Morrison is not only the highest mountain peak of the island of Formosa but of all of eastern Asia. It was first mentioned by an English Captain at the end of the last century and bears his name. But hitherto no one has climbed it since it is located in the midst of the mountain region inhabited exclusively by natives who often show themselves rather hostile. The absence of roads and villages is another factor weighing heavily against such an attempt. In clear weather the white peak of the mountain is visible from the town of Taiwan and the mountain serves seamen as a landmark over great distances. It is located at Lat. 23. 5° North.

... I felt an urge to explore the hitherto unknown mountainous part of the island of Formosa. In the fall of last year the Imperial Government finally asked me to make a study of the forestry of that region. I departed at the beginning of October, 1896, and after seven days I landed in Kelung, the northernmost port of the island; we had briefly stopped at the Liukiu Islands in the course of our voyage. Together with four companions I set out on my march through the western slopes of the almost central mountain chain; we were headed south. Beautiful evergreen woods - ficus and palm trees, camphor trees, bamboos, fig trees, pineapple, banana trees and cinnamon trees - covered the western spurs of the mountains where several Chinese villages are still found. Towards the east, however, in the direction of the mountain ridge the population is exclusively native. As the elevation increases, the vegetation changes. The tropical appearance is lost and Crypto-meriae, pine-trees, and firs are reminiscent of the temperate zone. Fortunately the Chinese have not yet deeply penetrated into the mountain regions, for they certainly do not know any such thing as consideration of the forest. Wherever they go war is made on the forest with fire. The Chinese inhabit bare plains where nothing but bamboo groves are visible; they are planted close to the dwellings. Incalculable damage has already been done by barbaric devastation. After a journey of ten days we arrived in Ling-ki-ho, a place inhabited by Chinese where I encountered the last Japanese guards. From here on to Mt. Morrison there are no Chinese settlements. I

was unable to find horses anywhere although I needed them badly, nor were mules or donkeys available.

26: Honda--469-470 N-3 (1896) 1897 Formosans
116, 491, 499, 177.49 Japan
636.49

The roads on the whole island are nothing more than narrow paths extending irregularly with corners and curves through fields. Bridges are as good as non-existent. For that reason we had to cover the entire distance to Mount Morrison on foot. [470] When the Japanese started building wide roads, the Chinese farmers were not particularly pleased and expressed the opinion that it was rather wasteful to build wide roads at the cost of useful fields; they felt that narrow paths were perfectly sufficient for pedestrians. Thus it is easy to imagine what difficulties of transportation the Japanese militia encountered when it was sent out to subdue the rebels.

The actual ascent of Mount Morrison started from the village of Ling-ki-ho. It is surrounded by bare hills between which spread fields of rice and sweet potatoes. The little town has a population of about a thousand who initially showed themselves very hostile towards the Japanese; the ranks of the rebels included people engaged in the camphor trade. We had an extremely hard time finding porters in Ling-ki-ho and were completely unsuccessful in our search for guides. We had finally managed to engage twenty men who, when they learnt of our destination, promptly deserted us to the last man for fear of the aborigines, among whom individuals can distinguish themselves by capturing the heads of several Chinese. A youth of their group can think of marriage only after he has proved his courage by such an achievement. Once more twenty porters were hired; they were locked up overnight, examined by the doctor who eliminated four of them, and the next morning a load of about 24 kilograms was tied on the back of each one of them in the presence of armed soldiers, so that there was no opportunity for desertion. Our group included two officers with twenty-five men and their equipment and seven Japanese including a newspaper reporter, an interpreter, a doctor, geologist, and a topographer. I was not only supposed to be the leader of the expedition but was also entrusted with the task of studying the forest conditions in detail and of photographing everything of interest. Naturally we were well equipped with all kinds of scientific

instruments and tools for clearing our way through the thicket, for building huts against the rain, etc.

On the first day (November 13) we advanced from Ling-ki-ho 24 kilometers toward Mt. Morrison through hilly or cultivated land. On the second day we marched on through grass three meters in height or through bamboo woods which in the valleys were replaced by banana woods. As we climbed higher, we soon reached the evergreen foliaceous woods. In the past they had apparently occupied areas now claimed by bamboos and banana trees. But the leafy woods could not maintain themselves when they were attacked by fire, and thus had to give way to the bamboos. In places where the bamboo forests were frequently subjected to fire, vegetation is limited to the bothersome kaya grass (Imperata arundinacea, Cyr.). In the foliaceous woods most of the trees are fig or camphor trees occupying large areas in many instances and mixed with palm trees and creepers. Here the vegetation is extremely luxuriant. The camphor trees reach a circumference of up to ten meters and a height of 50 meters. Ferns twenty meters high fight their way up between the trees, giant aerial roots hang down, and often we were at a complete loss facing the impenetrable confusion of the thicket. This virgin forest detained us for two days. I noticed that unfortunately many of the huge camphor trees had been hacked at by men in search for camphor and that they had died as a consequence of this treatment. As a result many of the giant trees had fallen or had been blown over by the wind. Only about five percent of a tree had been used for the exploitation of camphor and then thousands of trunks of precious wood had simply been left to rot. Of

course we immediately tried to stop such devastation and waste by strict regulations, but so far we have not yet the necessary personnel to create order in these dangerous parts of the country. In many cases the dead giants of the forest necessitated detours and we lost much time. We spent the second night in a lonely hut that must have been erected by camphor collectors.

26: Honda--470-471 N-3 (1896) 1897 Formosan Aborigines
116, 162, 576, 609 Bunun

On the third day [EJ: of the journey toward Mt. Morrison] we came upon the first settlement of the aborigines. The village comprised thirteen huts, inhabited by about 150 persons. It was called Namaka-ban. Shortly before we reached this village I had sent our armed soldiers back [471] with the thought that they would do more harm than good. My interpreter, a Chinese who had had frequent contact with the aborigines and had delivered salt to them, was very emphatic in his statement that the arrival of armed men would immediately start hostilities. As we approached the village, we saw the chief with about 30 of his men armed with rifles, spears, and bows and arrows; they had taken up their positions on a hill. Bur before we ourselves reached the village, I sent my interpreter to inform the inhabitants of our peaceful intentions. I went to meet the natives without any visible weapons and only with a gun in my pocket; whereupon the chief knelt down and folded his hands over his head as a greeting. I followed him into the village where I presented him with various gifts.

26: Honda--471
116, 291, 301

N-3

(1896) 1897

Formosan Aborigines
Bunun

The women wore some clothes, whereas the men were completely nude except for a loose loin-cloth. Some of them wore deer skins on their backs; this was true particularly of the chiefs. Necklaces and bracelets of shell or berries are worn by both men and women. My attention was attracted especially by the tight belly bands worn by both the young and old and made from fibers of the Calamus Rotang. I was told that their main purpose is to prevent excessive consumption of food.

26: Honda--471[2] N-3 (1896) 1897 Formosan Aborigines
116, 342, 411, 883 Bunun

In the village of Namaka I observed one extraordinarily large house occupying an area of about 140 square meters. It was the community sleeping-house for all unmarried men. The interior has a floor of bamboos. A fireplace is found in the center. There are no partition walls to mark off rooms. The house is open on two sides and on the remaining two the roof slopes down quite low and provides some protection against bad weather. As many as 85 skulls, all of the Chinese, were suspended from the ceiling. All of the men of the village were armed with daggers approximately 40 centimeters long.

26: Honda--471 [3] N-3 (1896) 1897 Formosan Aborigines
116, 579, 622 Bunun

Every village is headed by a chief who is completely independent. Frequently neighborin
villages are hostile towards each other.

26: Honda--471 [4] N-3 (1896) 1897 Formosan Aborigines
116, 304, 535, 837 Bunun

A strange custom is the removal of the eye-teeth when the children are about five years old. Some of the people displayed tatooing on their hands and faces. The chief ordered the performance of a dance in my honor; ten or more women held hands and formed a large circle, swayed to and fro, and beat the rhythm with their feet as a monotonous song was heard. Men formed in a circle and engaged in the same movements. Marital faithfulness is very strictly maintained; even the chiefs have no more than one wife and are loyal to her.

26: Honda--471 [5] N-3 (1896) 1897 Formosan Aborigines
116, 173 Bunun

A tradition among them says that they are brothers of the Japanese, but that the Chinese have driven away these brothers. For that reason the victory of the Japanese was considered also as their victory over the Chinese.

The next day we marched for five hours through grassland at an altitude of about 2700 meters to the village of Ho-Sha, which has a population of about 300 persons. On the way we passed a hanging bridge of Calamus Rotang which spans the Tinalankei River in a spot where it is about 30 meters wide. In the village of Ho-Sha we were received as on the previous day and once more I had to spend the night in the community building surrounded by smells.

On the following day [EJ: of the journey toward Mt. Morrison] we marched for six hours to the village of Tom-bū. Our route was along a stream with steep banks; there were no paths or bridges and at times the water reached up to our stomachs. Tom-bū was the last human settlement. Here we had to pick up new provisions. We were able to get some chickens, sweet potatoes, and millet. We left behind a number of porters and all luggage that was not absolutely essential. With four aborigines, who knew the entire region well, we started the actual ascent of Mt. Morrison. After three hours and at an altitude of 5500 feet we found a hot spring on the bank of the river; the temperature of the water was 70° centigrade. Some similar hot springs gushed forth in the stream itself.

Up to this point large evergreen foliaceous woods prevail. But wherever the natives have burnt down the high grass the vegetation is limited to cork trees (Quercus variabilis Bl.), which indeed occupy large areas. [472] From here on we encountered coniferous woods; at an elevation of 6000 feet, they comprised giant Chamacypariae and Crypto-meriae, their trunks having a diameter from six to ten feet. At 7000 feet we reached the zone of splendid fir trees; some of the species had hitherto been unknown to me. The preceding two days of our march had been very strenuous because most of the time we had to wade through the water of a brook flowing between steep banks.

In the morning of the eighth day after a difficult ascent over barren slopes we reached

a grassy area at an altitude of 9500 feet; it sloped slightly to the south, measured several English square miles and constituted a watershed. The peak of Mt. Morrison rose before us in all its majesty. We made a big fire and spent the cool evening in a little valley. At 2 a.m., when the temperature was down to -3° centigrade, we started the final ascent. First we advanced on the north through Tsuga woods and then on the less steep south side with its pine forests; at times we were crossing grassy areas and finally moved along the high ridge itself; this ridge is crowned by several peaks and is covered with sharp rock fragments of argillaceous schists. We reached the summit at eleven o'clock; the cloudless sky allowed us the most splendid view over almost all of Formosa. Far in the east beyond numerous mountain peaks the ocean was visible. And once more the ocean appeared in the west at an even greater distance. We could see the villages of Taiwanfu in the west, and Tainan, Anping, and Takao in the south.

We took some photographs and finished our scientific observations when fog and strong winds forced us to start back. It was dark when we reached our base where we had left behind our luggage, the porters and our companions who had come down with fevers.

We did not have time to hunt deer or wild boars.... Some rain had fallen in the evening, and the water froze during the night so that we suffered a good deal as we were sleeping outside. The next morning all the Japanese had fevers; my temperature was up to 41.5°

centigrade and one of our native guides carried me on his back during the following three days. For this service I rewarded him with an old pair of pants since he had no use whatsoever for money.

I wish to stress the following points of our scientific observations:

1. The common notion that Mt. Morrison is of volcanic origin is erroneous. The main rock materials of the mountain and its environment are argillaceous schists and quartzite. The beds of the former strike with a dip of 70° from EN 10° to WS 10°. Therefore the northern slopes are much steeper than the southern slopes, and rock slides are frequent.

2. The height of the peak is not 12830 feet, as had been determined by means of trigonometric measurements from the sea, but our barometric observations showed that the height should be 14350 feet. It is likely that the peak itself, as seen from the ocean, may be hidden by another summit close to it.

3. At noon of November 21, our barometer stood at 453 mm and the thermometer at 4.5° centigrade with a relative humidity of 90%.

4. We did not find snow anywhere, not even in the rock fissures on the mountain. The notion prevalent among the Chinese of Formosa that eternal snow covers the mountain is due to the white quartz which from a great distance may be mistaken for snow.

5. The mountainland of Formosa by no means everywhere [473] consists of impenetrable virgin forest. The southern slopes of the mountains are often covered with extensive grass areas for which, in part, the fires started by the natives to facilitate hunting are responsible. Through the telescope from the peak, we have observed a good

deal of the mountain region, and have found that at the most forty per cent of the area visible from that position was occupied by forests.

6. Up to an altitude of 1700 feet, the lowland of Formosa is claimed by tropical vegetation among which ficus, pandanus, palm trees, and pineapple are predominant. From here to an elevation of 6000 feet above sea-level, we find sub-tropical evergreen foliaceous woods; camphor trees occur up to 6500 feet and the same is true of evergreen oak trees. At 6000 feet the region of coniferous trees begins; the species found are at first Cryptomeriae and Chamaesyparis then followed at 7000-8500 feet by firs (variety of Picea Glehni), and Tsuga diversifolia Maxim. at 8500-10, 500 feet. Finally from 10, 500 feet to the peak of Mt. Morrison, we find pine trees and juniperus and principally Abies Mariesti.

7. The abundance of water in the mountain lakes makes it possible to follow the watercourses into the region of the fir trees and the wood may be transported down the streams.

8. The exploitation of camphor on Formosa is still at a very primitive stage. If the methods of Kiushiu were employed production could easily be doubled.

9. The aborigines are by no means hunters. Only the chiefs and a few of their subjects go hunting. The main occupation of the people is agriculture. In particular,

sweet potatoes and millet are important products. In addition tobacco and a variety of pea are grown. The system of agriculture is communistic. Its advantages are that nothing is stolen because nobody is permitted to have private property. Both work and harvest are arranged on a cooperative basis.

10. The men are willing workers and like to use axes, which makes me believe that they would be good forestry workers.